



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 4, 1996

Stephanie Hanna 202-208-6416

TEN MORE REFUGES OFFER HUNTING AND FISHING

President Bill Clinton today announced the opening of 10 new fishing programs and 6 new hunting programs on America's national wildlife refuges. An accompanying notice of the final proposal is listed in the Federal Register.

"We ought to be increasing the number of opportunities for hunting and fishing on our refuges when it is appropriate and I am especially pleased to be able to make this announcement in time for the beginning of the 1996 hunting season," President Clinton said. "With today's action, this Administration has now opened 20 new hunting programs and 16 new fishing programs in the past 3 years."

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt pointed out that there is now a total of 280 refuges open to hunting and 274 to fishing.

"This Nation's national wildlife refuges are the most outstanding network of lands and waters dedicated to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of fish, wildlife and their habitat in the world," Babbitt said. "They benefit all Americans, and provide us with the opportunity to pursue an enormous number of outdoor recreational activities. I am pleased to include more hunting and fishing access on that list."

The National Wildlife Refuge System, established in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt, now includes 508 refuges in all 50 states and encompasses 92.3 million acres. It is the world's most outstanding network of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife. The refuge system is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people.

New hunting and fishing programs will be available to the public on the following refuges:

Hunting and Fishing:

Arkansas--Bald Knob, Cossatot
Illinois--Emiquon
Indiana--Patoka River
Louisiana--Big Branch Marsh
Missouri--Big Muddy

Fishing:

Louisiana--Grand Cote,
Mandalay
Mississippi--Tallahatchie
Nebraska--Boyer Chute